

Integrity Matters



News and information for the horse racing community and the general public

June 2009

If you are involved in racing today, chances are you share something quite special:
A PASSION FOR THE HORSE. AND A PASSION FOR THE SPORT.
AND WHAT YOU WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING IS...
A FAIR CHANCE AT THE RACES...



You hope that, as you pursue your passion, there will truly be a level playing field every time you compete. And you want to be confident and feel comfortable that everything is being done to deal with those who would jeopardize this spirit of fairness. The Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) recognizes this desire, and is committed to working with you and regulators around the world to ensure that those who participate in racing play fairly and by the rules. The ORC also encourages all partners in racing to support its efforts to protect the health of the horse and the safety of the participant.

But what is the solution to ensuring this fairness in racing and protection of the health of the horse?

There is world wide acceptance now that the answer may focus on an increased acceptance and role for investigation in horse racing. At the prestigious 17th International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians, held in Turkey, October 2008 the importance of investigation was recognized.

Many comments and conversations were shared at the conference, comments like:

"The days of relying on purely race day tests are gone"

"Out of Competition Testing will play a significant role"

"But there are potentially hundreds of drugs in use where there is no test!"

These comments were not being directed to the traditional "racing investigator" of years gone by, but to a new type of investigator. From security - to investigation - to international intelligence gathering - to collaborative efforts: the bar has been raised and the role of the investigator in horse racing is rapidly changing.

With this increased level of responsibility, the investigator today faces great challenges. In order to effectively protect the integrity of racing, the investigator is challenged to work

**FAIR AND SAFE
RACING...**

**COMMUNITY
CONFIDENCE**

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MESSAGE FROM CHAIR ROD SEILING



**"Have confidence in racing.
And play an active part in ensuring
its fairness."**

As we are well into another season of racing, the usual questions resonate within our community: **what challenges will we face this year? Will we gain any ground in these tough, uncertain economic times? What is the answer to maintaining the integrity of horse racing?**

It may be an overstatement but I believe the answer lies within our community. We all have a part to play in ensuring the success of our industry – breeders, owners, associations, the regulator, and the thousands who live and work in racing. Collectively, we must have confidence in racing, and play an active part in ensuring its fairness.

We need rules and regulation, we need testing and oversight. And as you will read from our feature story, we need to rely on such advancements as intelligence-led investigations. But I believe that fairness and confidence can also be secured with ongoing dialogue, consultation and cooperation among all parties. Horse racing in Ontario is a large and complex industry, and some-

times the industry partners disagree – just as they do in other businesses. Racing needs to be able to deal with discord in a manner that will produce realistic solutions. The ORC is committed to doing its part to facilitate a healthy, productive relationship among all parties. And it begins with listening to each other.

An excellent example of dialogue and partnership over the past few months has been the fine work undertaken by the multi-breed Working Groups on use of the whip. The outcome of the industry discussion has led to the formation of rules regarding the appropriate methods for urging a horse in racing and changes to driving styles to require a hand in each line for the entire race. The end result is a new standardbred rule which was approved by the ORC Board

and is now being circulated for comments. (See story in this issue).

It is anticipated that a revised thoroughbred rule will also be in place in another month. I want to thank these individuals for their service to the racing community. It is a positive sign of cooperation within the industry and concern for the health and welfare of the horse.

In addition to these and other measures to protect the horse and the participant, I also want to assure you that the ORC will continue to focus on the integrity of racing. I would like to acknowledge and thank the

racetracks and horsepeople organizations for their renewed support for the **ORC Equine Medication Control and Drug Task Force**.

It is both interesting and gratifying to note that the ORC's effort to combat the use of illegal medication in racing is getting world-wide attention.

A story in the **Herald Sun** – Australia's largest circulation newspaper – quoted Australian racing officials' gratitude to Ontario, noting:

"Harness Racing Victoria and Racing Victoria have also formed a strong association with the Ontario Racing Commission in Canada, which is regarded as a world leader in the fight against EPO and other drug use in racing..."

Closer to home, we can expect – and must all be ready for – the government's response to the **Industry Review Panel** ("Sadinsky Report"), as well as the report of the **Standing Committee**.

The challenge to change should be embraced as an exciting reality.

These are not just our words. If I may I quote from a September 2008 edition of the **Daily Racing Form**, one of North America's leading horse racing publications....

"Change is coming ... and it starts, as do so many racing innovations, in Ontario..."

The business of racing must continue. And we shall continue our efforts to dialogue with you and together, we can ensure fairness and confidence in racing.

Rod Seiling
Chair



CHANGE IS COMING: USE OF THE WHIP IN ONTARIO HORSE RACING

The ORC recognizes that there are varying degrees of opinion on the subject of whip use, both within horse racing and the community at large. Further, it has been generally accepted that 'the status quo' is not an acceptable option, change is indeed required, and that the racing industry and the general public expect it.

In order to address this important issue, in September 2008 ORC Executive Director John Blakney invited representatives of the horse racing community to attend a special meeting. The attendees included current and retired jockeys and drivers, horsepeople associations, race-tracks, animal welfare agencies and the equine veterinarian community. Over the next few months, consultation continued including diligent work by breed-specific working groups.

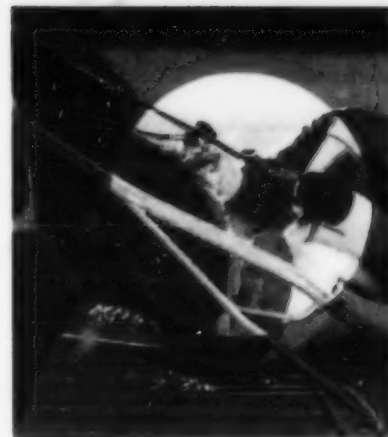
The Board of the ORC has approved changes to the rules as recommended by the **Standardbred Working Group**. This new approach takes into consideration the safety of the participants, the welfare of the horse and the perception of the product.

Full details of the decision – including the Policy Directive issued to document these changes – can be viewed at the ORC web site under the May 29 **What's New** item.

www.ontarioracingcommission.ca

Some highlights of the work of the Standardbred Working Group and the rules:

- There was broad consensus among the Working Group that moving to a line in each hand was the right direction to take.



- The restrictions on how the whip could be used were expanded beyond the race to at any time while driving a horse on racetrack grounds to deal with abuse of the use of the whip in training scenarios. Restrictions were also extended to any person in control of the horse to cover trainers or grooms who might be training or warming up a horse.
- The group agreed that once the new penalty structure is implemented, that all participants should be started at the first offence level regardless of past violations. It was agreed that past violations would be considered by the Judges when determining penalty and that any probationary orders would remain in effect.
- Specific recommendations for the length and design of the snapper are included.
- A graduated penalty structure was introduced for all offences which now includes days and increased fines. It was felt that days will have more of an impact for the drivers at the large tracks and the fines will have more of an impact for the drivers at the smaller tracks.

MORE FROM THE CHAIR

ONTARIO'S HORSE

The 2009 racing season certainly got off to a great start! And it's all thanks to "Ontario's horse," Kentucky Derby winner **Mine That Bird** who continued to amaze with a Preakness second place finish and a third in the Belmont Stakes. He was Canada's 2-year-old champion last year and was almost unbeatable at Woodbine Racetrack, winning four times in five races. Congratulations to those who worked with this amazing horse.

COMMISSIONER NEWS

Earlier this year, the Government of Ontario reappointed the Honourable James M. Donnelly as Vice Chair of the ORC for a period of three years. Brenda Walker was re-appointed for a two year term. As well, at the end of May, our colleague Dr. Bernie Brennan was re-appointed for a one year term.

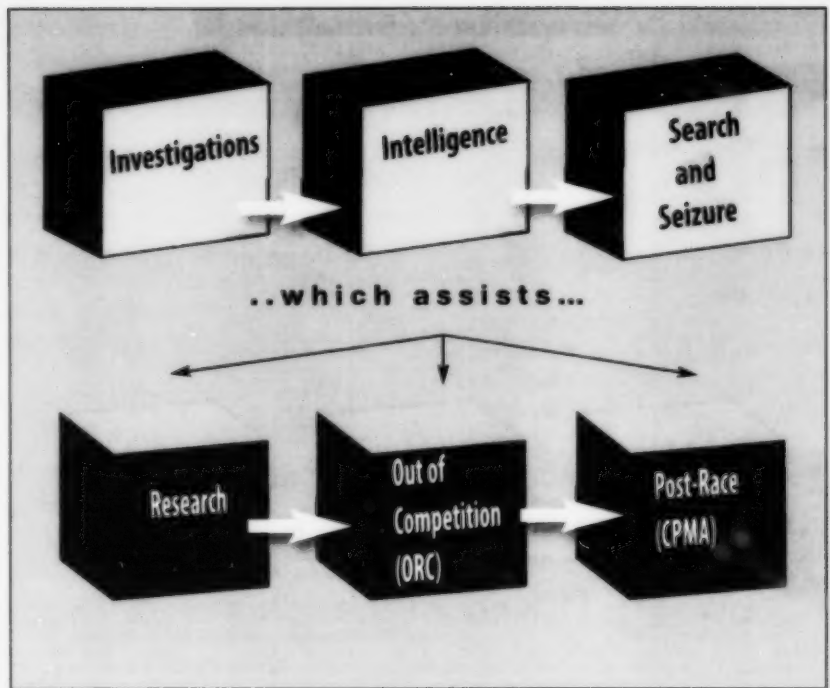
This continuity provides excellent stability to the Commission and I am pleased that the horse racing community will continue to benefit from their exceptional experience. I look forward to working with them.

A Fair Chance... continued from pg 1

at an even higher level of sophistication and expanded territory. There is a need for more innovative ways of operating, leading to more reliance on international shared intelligence and collaboration.

Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) investigators are committed to meeting this **challenge of change** while continuing to build relationships with the racing community. For example, the ORC has established official Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with a number of other racing jurisdictions and authorities, including those in British Columbia, Michigan and Illinois, as well as the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Ontario).

Strong working relationships have been established with Crime Stoppers, College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO), Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario (CISO), Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA), Standardbred Canada, Health Canada, numerous OPP Detachments and Municipal Police Services.



These types of collaborative efforts are key to successfully combating the illegal use of therapeutic or non-therapeutic medications in racing. In the words of the representative from the World Doping Organization... "**The transfer of knowledge and information is paramount...**"

ORC investigators also accept that the 'bar has been raised' in terms of professional standards of conduct. **If regulators are to expect 'participants' to operate with integrity, then there is an even higher standard of integrity expected of those who regulate and investigate.**

Ultimately, fairness and safety in racing will hinge on a true partnership with the community, one that is perceived as an essential, value-added service component of the business of racing.

Intelligence-led Investigations

One of the investigator's most effective tools is "intelligence-led investigations."

Originating in the UK, intelligence-led investigation was originally articulated as a law enforcement operational strategy that sought to reduce crime through the combined use of crime analysis and criminal intelligence. It has evolved into a policing philosophy that places greater emphasis on information-sharing and

collaborative, strategic solutions to crime problems at the local and regional level.

For example, combating the use of illegal medications and protecting the integrity of the racing is not an issue just for the regulator: **it is a challenge for the entire racing community.**

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HELP IS AVAILABLE
Call the Drug and Alcohol
Treatment Info Line
It's toll-free

1-800-565-8603

It's confidential
It's anonymous
It's open 24 hours

Integrity Matters

A publication of the Ontario Racing Commission, the provincial agency which governs, directs and centrally funds racing in any or all its forms in the Province of Ontario.

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